

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH)
(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The question does not arise.

STD/ISD Booths in Kerala

3620. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of STD/ISD/PCO booths working in Kerala District-wise;

(b) whether there is any norms laid down in allotting booths, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the mushrooming for booths comes difficulties and hardships; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Sir, the SSA-wise information is given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) STD PCOs are allotted by the STD PCO allotment committee, constituted one for each SSA, consisting of 2 official members and non-official members one each nominated by sitting Members of Parliament representing the SSA. Educational qualification is 8th pass for rural areas and Matric/High School pass for urban areas. Preference is given to the following categories of persons :

1. Handicapped including blind persons
2. SC/ST Applicants
3. Ex-Servicemen & War Widows.
4. Retired DOT employees or their dependents.
5. Dependents of Freedom Fighters.
6. Charitable Institutions/Hospitals.

(c) and (d) Sir, while allotting new STD PCOs, it is ensured that average monthly earnings of the franchisees do not fall below Rs. 2000/-

Statement

No. of STD PCOs working in Kerala as on 30.6.97

Sl.No.	Name of SSA	No. of STD PCOs
1	2	3
1.	Trivandrum	971
2.	Quilon	646

1	2	3
3.	Pathanamthitta	699
4.	Alappuzha	504
5.	Kottayam	780
6.	Erankulam	2512
7.	Trichur	1092
8.	Palakkad	675
9.	Calicut	1700
10.	Kannur	857
Total		10436

Fixation Limit for IPFI in Power Sector

3621. SHRI VIJAY PATEL :
SHRI HARIN PATHAK :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have fixed limit of 40% of Indian Public Finance Institutes in power sector based on indigenous equipments;

(b) if so, whether any representations from any State Government have been received for relaxation of the limit and to exclude funding from Indian commercial banks while making aggregate exposure of IPFI within the permissible limit;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the decision taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) to (d) The private power policy *inter alia* stipulates that an amount not exceeding 40% of the total outlay may come from Indian public financial institutions, but the remaining amount should be met from other sources. The Government of Gujarat had requested that Independent Power Producers (IPPs) sourcing equipment from indigenous suppliers should be exempted from this limit. This request is under consideration.

Provision of Electricity

3622. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Government to provide electricity to the rural far flung hilly tribal and remote areas; and

(b) If so, the details of the special programmes involved in this regard?